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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/682,542	10/09/2003	Susie J. Wee	200315123-1	8755
22879	7590	12/29/2006	EXAMINER	
HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400			BAUTISTA, XIOMARA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2179	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		12/29/2006	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/682,542	WEE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	X. L. Bautista	2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/12/06.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see amendment, filed 11/28/2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-45 under 35 U.S.C. 102 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Brin and Baker.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brin* (US 2003/0001890 A1) and *Baker* (US 5,686,957).**

Claims 1, 22 and 34:

Brin discloses a system and method for interactive communication among a plurality of users. Brin teaches that the system enables users to perceive and participate in a multiple real-world conversational characteristics, such as proximity and orientation of a listener, emphasis by a speaker, importance of a

speaker, reputation of a speaker, filtering conversations, etc. The system detects multiple communication interactions among the individuals present in the environment and maintain an interest thread for each communication interaction (abstract; p. 1, par. 0011-p. 2; par. 0012-0019, 0028; p. 3, par. 0033). The system captures a set of media data for each interest thread and combines it in response to the activities of a subset of the individuals associated with the interest thread (p. 4, par. 0065-0069, 0074-0075; p. 5, par. 0076-0082; figs. 5, 7, 14, 15).

Brin does not teach a first and second sets of sensing and rendering components that cover the physical movements of multiple individuals present in respective first and second environments. However, Baker discloses a teleconferencing system having a first set of sensing and rendering components (microphones, video cameras, computers, etc.) that cover the voice and physical movements of a plurality of participants present in a first environment; and a second set of sensing and rendering components that cover the voice and physical movements of a plurality of participants present in a second environment (abstract; col. 1, lines 16-30; col. 7, lines 1-25). The system has components that detect the sound of a participant speaking and components that detect the movement or gestures of the speaker (col. 5, lines 9-67; col. 6, lines 1-67). The system has an interest thread detector that detects communication interactions involving one or more participants (col. 1, lines 16-30; col. 5, lines 9-13, 16-67; col. 6, lines 1-67). The

system has a communication provider that captures the media data, combines the captured media data and communicates the combined media data to the rendering components (col. 9, lines 14-67; col. 10, lines 10-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brin's interactive communication system to include Baker's teaching of using a plurality of sensing and rendering components to capture the audio and movements of a group of participants in a teleconferencing environment because as Baker says, manual manipulation of multiple video cameras and other components is labor intensive and using a set of sensing and rendering components around a conference table is much more efficient for video image capture of surrounding selected participants.

Claims 2, 23 and 35:

See claim 1. Brin teaches selection of a subset of sensing and rendering components for use for each interest thread (p. 4, par. 0065-0069, 0074-0075; p. 5, par. 0076-0082; figs. 5, 7, 14, 15).

Claims 3, 24 and 36:

Brin teaches speech levels of the individuals (p. 2, par. 0012-0019).

Claims 4, 25 and 37:

Brin teaches selective filtering based on emphasis expressed by other speakers. Brin teaches emphasis such as gesturing (p. 5, par. 0076).

Claims 5, 18-20, 26 and 38:

Brin teaches activities including movements by the individuals (p. 2, par. 0019, 0021, 0032; p. 5, par. 0080, 0083; p. 8, par. 0111).

Claims 6, 27 and 39:

Brin teaches activities including locations of the individuals (p. 6, par. 0094).

Claims 7, 28 and 40:

Brin teaches that the system refines the media data in response to the activities of the individuals (p. 2, par. 0013-0026, 0031, 0034).

Claims 8, 29 and 41:

Brin teaches history of the communication interactions (p. 11, par. 0157; p. 12, par. 0172).

Claim 9:

Brin teaches communication interaction pertaining to an artifact in the rich media environment (p. 2, par. 0018; p. 3, par. 0037-0038).

Claims 10-13, 30, 31, 42 and 43:

Brin teaches that the system keeps track of each user's entry, which is displayed in conversation display spaces (writing surfaces) and updated with every entry (records a history of the space's content over time), (figs. 4B, 5A, 5B; p. 7, par. 0099-0108).

Claims 14, 15, 32, 33, 44 and 45:

See claim 1. Brin teaches detection of multiple activities (audio, gestures, movement, etc.) and creation of interest areas for each detected activity (p. 5, par. 0076; p. 7, par. 0099-0108; figs. 5A-10).

Claims 16 and 17:

See claim 1. Brin teaches communication interactions among two or more individuals in two or more of the rich media environments (p. 16, par. 0241; figs. 5A-10, 14, 15).

Claim 21:

See claim 1. Brin teaches one or more individuals in remote locations (p. 1, par. 0004-0006).

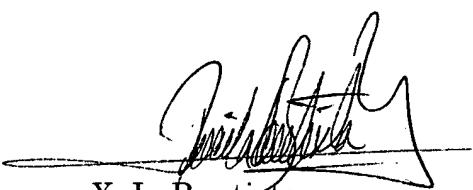
Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to X. L. Bautista whose telephone number is (571) 272-4132. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday 8:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-

273-8300.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



X. L. Bautista
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2179

xlb
December 26, 2006